### **BELLSOUTH**

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General Counsel-South Carolina

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September 23, 2005

Mr. Charles Terreni Chief Clerk of the Commission Public Service Commission of South Carolina Post Office Drawer 11649 Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re:

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Petition for Review of NXX Code

Denial in the Charleston Rate Center

Docket No.

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing are an original and ten copies of BellSouth Telecommunications Inc.'s Petition for Review of NXX Code Denial in the Charleston Rate Center in the above-captioned matter. By copy of this letter, I am serving a copy of this document on NANPA, NeuStar, and the ORS, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Turner

PWT/sgm Attachment DM5 603053

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S PETITION REQUESTING THE COMMISSION'S INTERVENTION IN NANPA NXX CODE ASSIGNMENTS	)	роскет no. <u>2115 29</u> 2 С
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### PETITION FOR REVIEW OF NXX CODE DENIAL IN THE CHARLESTON RATE CENTER

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), pursuant to rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for challenging determinations of the North American Numbering Plan Administration ("NANPA"), petitions the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for review of NANPA's denial of BellSouth's application for use of central office code numbering resources in the 843 area code. The denial that is the subject of this Petition impacts BellSouth customer Trident Regional Medical Center.

In support of this petition BellSouth states:

- 1. BellSouth is a telecommunications utility regulated by the Commission. It provides intraLATA, local exchange telecommunications services in various portions of South Carolina, including the Charleston exchange.
- 2. NANPA is an independent non-governmental entity that is responsible for administering and managing the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"). See 47 C.F.R. § 52.13 (a), (b).
- 3. On March 31, 2000, the FCC issued a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making relating to numbering resource optimization ("FCC 00-104"). The goal

of FCC 00-104 was to implement uniform standards governing requests for telephone numbering resources in order to increase efficiency in the use of existing telephone numbers and to avoid further exhaustion of existing numbers under the NANP.

- 4. Among other things, FCC 00-104 adopted a revised standard for assessing a carrier's need for numbering resources by requiring rate center based utilization rates to be reported to NANPA. FCC Order at ¶ 105. The FCC further required that, to qualify for access to new numbering resources, applicants must establish that existing inventory within the applicant's rate center will be exhausted within six months of the application. The FCC reaffirmed this requirement in two subsequent orders. FCC 00-429 at ¶ 29 (rel. Dec. 29, 2000); FCC 01-362 at ¶¶ 48-49 (rel. Dec. 28, 2001). Prior to this ruling, the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, used by the industry and NANPA to make code assignments, required the applicant's existing number inventory within the applicant's serving switch to exhaust within six months of the code application or the carrier had to prove that it was unable to meet a specific customer's request with its current inventory of numbers in order for a code to be assigned.
- 5. This shift to a "rate center" basis from a switch basis for determining the need for new numbering resources was intended to "more accurately reflect how numbering resources are assigned" and to allow "carriers to obtain numbering resources in response to specific customer demands." FCC 00-104, ¶ 105.
- 6. In addition to the months-to-exhaust ("MTE") requirement described above, the FCC's rules also required carriers to meet a rate center utilization threshold of 60 percent in order to receive additional numbering resources in a given rate center. FCC 00-429 at Paragraph 22; FCC 01-362, ¶¶ 50-52. The utilization threshold has increased by five percent per year, and

it has now reached the maximum of 75 percent. Based on the FCC's orders, carriers must meet both the six months MTE requirement and the utilization threshold on a rate center basis in order to obtain numbering resources. <u>Id.</u>

- 7. On or about September 22, 2005, BellSouth submitted a Pooling Administration System request to NANPA and NeuStar for the assignment of three consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX to go with the customer's existing dialing plan in the Charleston, South Carolina exchange. These numbers are needed to meet the numbering demands of Trident Medical Center. This customer is requesting additional PRI telephone numbers to work in conjunction with existing PRI numbers that terminate in the customer's PBX located at 9330 Medical Plaza Drive in Charleston. The hospital system is growing and expanding services. These numbers are needed for patients' rooms, clinical services, and hospital support services. As BellSouth does not have existing numbers to meet the customer's request, three new consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX are needed. Exhibit A is a copy of the customer's letter dated June 23, 2005.
- 8. BellSouth's application was completed in accordance with Industry Numbering Committee's (INC's) and/or NANPA's guidelines, and BellSouth filled out the necessary Month-to-Exhaust Certification Worksheets as required.
- 9. At the time of the filing of the Code request, the Charleston Rate Center had an MTE of 11.18 months and a utilization of 72.57% (Exhibit B).
- 10. Thereafter, also on September 22, 2005, NPA's Central Office Code Administration denied BellSouth's request because BellSouth had not met the rate center based MTE criterion now set forth in the Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines. NANPA denied

BellSouth's code requests despite the fact that BellSouth does not have adequate numbering resources needed to satisfy this customer's demands in the Charleston Rate Center. NANPA's response is also included as part of Exhibit B.

- 11. BellSouth's inability to provide this important customer with the requested numbers prevents BellSouth from providing the quality of service this customer desires, needs, and expects. If BellSouth is not assigned the NXX thousand number blocks needed to meet the customer's request, BellSouth will be unable to provide telecommunications services requested by its customer. NANPA's refusal to grant numbering resources sufficient to meet the needs of this customer is inconsistent with the FCC's position that "(u)nder no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for want of numbering resources," FCC 00-429 at ¶ 61.
- Both the FCC's rules and the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines provide that state regulatory authorities have the power and authority to review NANPA's decision to deny a request for numbering resources. See FCC 01-362, Appendix A, Final Rules, § 52.15(g) (4) ("The carrier may challenge the NANPA's decision to the appropriate state regulatory commission"); FCC 01-362 at ¶¶ 61-66; Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines § 13.0 ("Appeals may include but are not limited to one or more of the following options: . . . C. The CO Code Administrator(s) and code holders/applicants may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate governmental/regulatory body").

BellSouth employs a number administration technique called "sequential numbering" in order to preserve the largest blocks of consecutive numbers for as long as possible. The lack of consecutive numbers in the switch referred to above is the consequence of a high level of utilization, not any failure on BellSouth's part to conserve blocks of consecutive numbers.

- 13. Prior to the FCC's Order and the resulting change in the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines, the MTE procedures used by NANPA permitted a carrier to receive a code assignment, even if the MTE requirement at the switch level was not met. These waivers or exceptions were granted where customer hardships could be demonstrated or where the service provider's inventory did not have a block of sequential numbers large enough to meet the customer's specific request. Under today's procedures, NANPA looks at the MTE for the entire rate center without any exceptions. The FCC has determined, however, that States may grant relief "if a carrier demonstrates that it has received a customer request for numbering resources in a given rate center that it cannot meet with its current inventory." FCC 01-362, ¶ 64. In addition, the FCC has ruled that, "States...may grant requests for customers seeking contiguous block of numbers." Id.
- 14. BellSouth requests that the Commission reverse NANPA's decision to withhold numbering resources from BellSouth on the following grounds:
  - a. NANPA's decision to withhold numbering resources from BellSouth interferes with BellSouth's ability to provide telecommunication services to its customers as required under South Carolina law; and
  - b. BellSouth's request for numbering resources would not materially impact exhaustion of the remaining 64 NXXs available NXXs in the 843 area code.<sup>2</sup>
- 15. This Commission (see Docket No. 2002 –185-C, Order No. 2002-415) and other state regulatory agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This count is as of February 28, 2005, the most current data published by NANPA.

Tennessee similarly have recognized their jurisdiction and authority to review NANPA denials and to order the release of number resources to BellSouth to meet customer needs.

#### WHEREFORE, BellSouth requests that the Commission:

- 1. Reverse the decision of NANPA to deny BellSouth's request for additional numbering resources;
- Direct NANPA to provide three consecutive thousand number blocks for the Charleston, South Carolina Rate Center; and
- 3. Grant the requested relief as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted this 23<sup>th</sup> day of September 2005.

Patrick W. Turner

**Suite 5200** 

1600 Williams Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

(803) 401-2900

ATTORNEY FOR BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC

603058

## **EXHIBIT A**

June 23, 2005

Trident Medical Summerville Medical C Colleton Medical C Archdale Medical Cen Daniei Island Medical Cen Moneks Corner Medical Co. St. George Diagnostic Cen 'Facilities of Trident Medical Center

Yvonne White Service Consultant, Bell South 1600 William Street Suite 3400 Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Request for Block of Numbers

Dear Ms. White.

Trident Medical Center, LLC d/b/a Trident Health System would like to request a block of 3,000 telephone numbers. Specifically, we are requesting these numbers for the following reasons:

- Our hospital system is growing and expanding services that we provide. This growth rate requires approximately 100 additional phone numbers per year. The numbers are needed for patient rooms, clinical services, and hospital support services. These numbers terminate to the PRI (Primary Rate Interface) assigned to Trident Health System.
- We currently have 1,500 numbers in use, and we utilize three different prefixes. Naturally, we would prefer to have one prefix.
- We are currently planning and additional expansion of the campus of Trident Medical Center. This expansion will further the need for additional numbers and it is highly likely this would require the use of a fourth prefix.
- The block of 3,000 numbers would replace and release most of the 1,500 numbers presently assigned to Trident Health System.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask. I can be reached at (843) 797-4109. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this request.

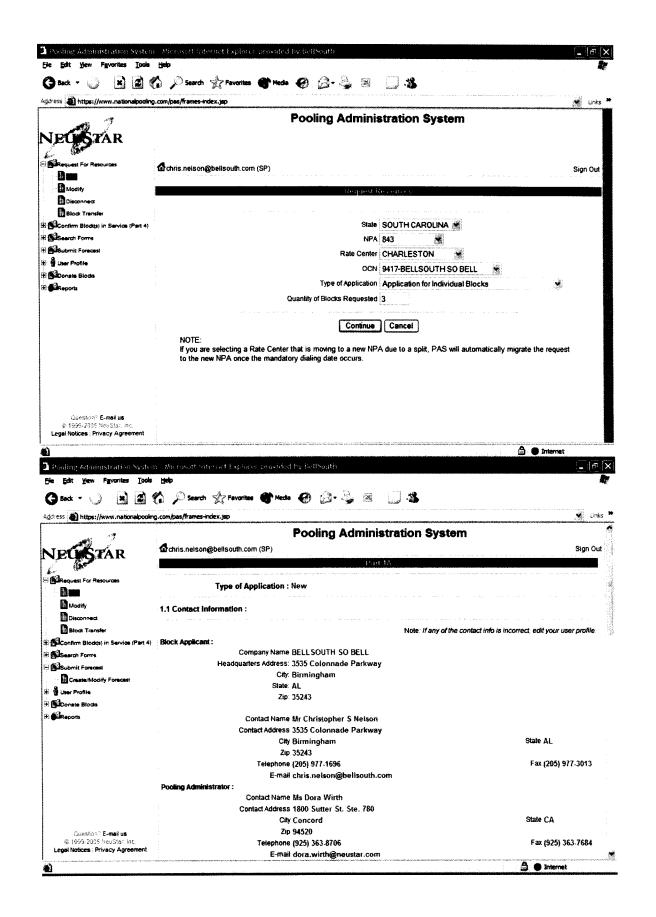
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Steve Burns.

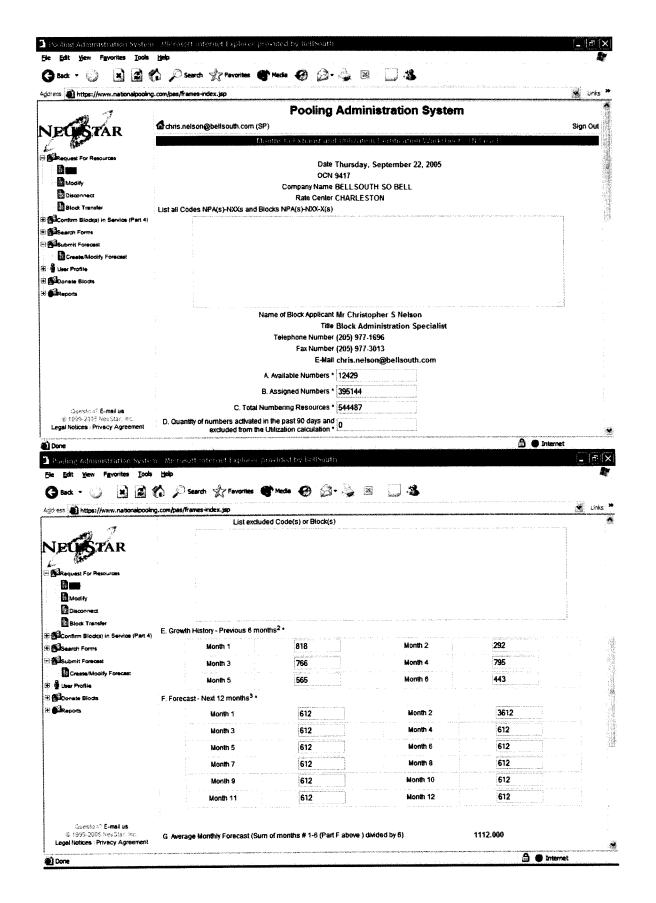
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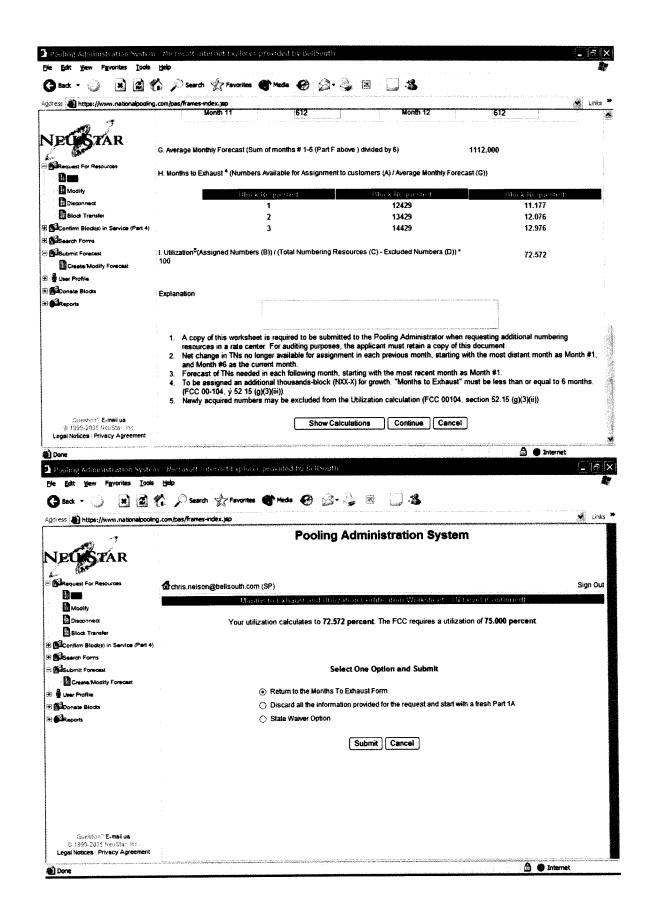
Information and Technology Services

# **EXHIBIT B**



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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	

The undersigned, Nyla M. Laney, hereby certifies that she is employed by the Legal Department for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and that she has caused BellSouth's Petition for Review of NXX Code Denial in the Charleston Rate Center to be served by the method indicated below upon the following this September 23, 2005:

Thomas C. Foley
NPA Relief Planner – Eastern Region NANPA
NeuStar – NANPA
820 Riverbend Blvd.
Longwood, FL 32779-2327
(U. S. Mail)

Ms. Kimberly Miller Regulatory Policy Attorney NeuStar 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036-3328 (U. S. Mail)

F. David Butler, Esquire
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S. C. Public Service Commission
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